

Pye on Racing

2019 Ohio Fair Column

By Thom Pye



A winning night at Wyandot-

Upper Sandusky, Ohio – The two-day 2019 Harness Season concluded at the Wyandot County Fair on Thursday September 12th with a very competitive card of 10 races that had the fans in the grandstand roaring and cheering.

The \$9,166 OFRC 3-year-old filly trot began the excitement with an eyeball-to-eyeball battle up the backside between Urban Buzz (Art Mc Ilmurray) and Easter Lilly (Cam McCown) on the outside before “Lilly” left ‘em wilting as the daughter of Cayenne Turbo trotted off by 4 in 2:02.4 for a new lifetime tab for trainer/lessee Jessica McCown of Ostrander. C’s Fire with Tyler rush was second as Bad Babysitter (Luke Ebersole) secured the show spot.

High On Paydaze with Jeff Nisonger in the stirrups opened up by 16 coming around the last turn as the crowd let out a very audible reaction. The 3-year-old colt by Nob Hill High, trained by Brian Brown for owners Hagemeyer, Mondillo, and Robinson, stopped the teletimer in 1:56.1 – a tick off the all-time track record – and earned his first win on 2019 pushing his career earnings past the \$240,000 mark.

Another Brian Brown student, Dig Danny Dig (by McArdle) with Beau Brown aboard, took the OFRC 2-year-old colt pace in 2:02 by 2 ¼ lengths over Pet My Rock (Jeff Nisonger) and Despot (Luke Ebersole) for owner Jennifer K. Brown.

The track pacing record teetered again in the \$3,800 Signature Series Pace when Dirty Steve, Matt Rowe’s 5-year-old gelding by Feeling Friskie, as teamster Jeff Nisonger held off Mystical Rock (Cam McCown) and Cody Greeno with American Schnapps in 1:56.3 by 1 ¼ lengths much to the crowd’s delight.

The very next OFRC 3-year-old colt pace had the fans animatedly cheering when another epic stretch battle emerged when Mr. Kim Haver’s Friday Night Blues – who had just set the track record of 1:55.4 at Richwood

Independent Fair – and Cam McCown came off Jeff Nisonger’s helmet and posted a last panel of :28.4 to nip Rockette Baby by a head in 1:56.4 for his 4th win in-a-row. Jessica McCown trains the Pet Rock gelding as Excavator (Beau Brown) was third.

Leading Fair driver Jeff Nisonger would earn the 3rd of his 4 wins on the evening with Here’s To Us Stable’s Big Bad John 2-year-old Johnny Rockette as the Ron Steck-trained gelding won by 3 ¾’s length over race favorite Pacer Racer (Cam McCown) in 1:58 flat as Medoland Bosa took 3rd. This was the Racing With The Stars fan race and the contestant who had drawn #5 Pacer Racer was already spending the \$25 grocery gift card that he WOULD have won if “that damn 4” hadn’t knocked over his dinner tray and stepped on his steak and mashed potatoes.

“That’s racing,” he was good naturedly reminded by his buddies.

A great night of quality racing, tight finishes, and hearty laughs.



Easter Lilly and Cam McCown stride out to a 4-length hard-fought victory in 2:02.4 to take the \$9,166 OFRC 3-year-old filly trot. Photo by Thom Pye.